

EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 17.**DOMINION OF CANADA.****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.****EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.****J. H. GRISDALE, B. Agr.**
Director.**W. T. MACOUN,**
Dominion Horticulturist.**DIVISION OF HORTICULTURE.****PROTECTION OF FRUIT TREES FROM MICE AND RABBITS****AND****CARE OF INJURED TREES.****BY****W. T. MACOUN.**

Every year thousands of trees are injured in Canada by mice, and, in the newer districts, a large number by rabbits also. There could be nothing more discouraging to a fruit grower, or would-be fruit grower, than to see his orchard which he had cared for, perhaps, for five or six years, ruined by mice; and yet this frequently happens. All this could be prevented if the farmer or fruit grower would use the information available and protect his trees from mice. Some years there is less injury than others, and this fact leads to carelessness, and when a bad year comes the trees are unprotected.

While the depredations from mice and rabbits in winter vary from one year to another, depending on the scarcity or abundance of food, the number of mice which are in the vicinity and the character of the winter, the injury is always greatest when the orchard is in sod, and when there is rubbish lying about; hence the latter should be removed before the winter sets in. In most cases it is not necessary nor advisable to have the orchard in sod, particularly when the trees are young, although it is highly important to have a cover crop, which also may sometimes become a harbour for mice. As mice may be expected in greater or less numbers every winter, young trees should be regularly protected against their ravages. Mice usually begin working on the ground under the snow, and when they come to a tree they will begin to gnaw it if it is not protected. A small mound of soil from eight to twelve inches in height raised about the base of the tree will often prevent their injuring the tree, and even snow tramped about the tree has been quite effectual, but the cheapest and surest practice is to wrap the tree with ordinary building paper, the price of which is merely nominal. Tar paper is also effectual, but trees have been injured by using it, and it is well to guard against this when building paper will do as well. After the paper is wrapped